

NEWS RELEASE



US FOREST SERVICE



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION
OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS

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Porcupine Ranch Fire – Update

Moab, UT – August 28, 2008— A wildfire ignited in the Southern end of Castle Valley yesterday at about 1:15 P.M. The fire started on state land and moved quickly up the steep terrain onto the Manti LaSal National Forest. Most of the burning area was just out of reach of the responding engines, and the steep terrain hindered ground access. The fire is now being managed by the Manti LaSal National Forest.

Location: Eight miles Southeast of Moab in the southern end of Castle Valley. The fire jumped the LaSal Loop Road.

Fuels: Pinyon/Juniper in lower elevations, Gambel Oak in moderate elevations, Subalpine Fire in higher elevations.

Start: 1:15 P.M. 8/27/2008

Cause: Lightning

Size: 3,000+ Acres (Estimated)

Jurisdiction: Fire started on State Land and has moved onto the Manti LaSal National Forest

Resources (Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Moab Valley Fire, Castle Valley Volunteer Fire Department):

4 Hotshot handcrews ordered for arrival today

3 Engines on scene, 6 ordered for arrival today

2 Air Tankers

1 Helicopter on scene, 1 on order for arrival today

Injuries: 0

Evacuations: 20-40 (Some evacuations lifted today in the Bald Mesa area) Willow Basin residences are on notice for possible evacuation if fire behavior warrants.

Threatened: Historic cabins, archaeological sites, residences in Willow Basin

Closures: LaSal Loop Road and other access roads onto the fire area. Access will be allowed for verified residents needing access to prepare for evacuation.

Homeowner inquiries regarding evacuations and threatened status should call the information line at 435-259-3766.

For additional information and photos of the fire visit the www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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